

Chapter NR 1

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD POLICIES

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NR 1.01 The management of fisheries and aquatic resources.
Preamble. (1) To meet its responsibilities established by statute, department programs shall be based on scientific management principles which emphasize the protection, perpetuation, development, and use of all desirable aquatic species.

(2) The goal of fish management is to provide opportunities for the optimum use and enjoyment of Wisconsin's aquatic resources, both sport and commercial. A healthy and diverse environment is essential to meet this goal and shall be promoted through management programs.

(3) Aquatic resources include both nongame and game species of fish, other aquatic animals and their habitats. Endangered and threatened species form a special group that will be managed according to ch. NR 27, Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 29.415, Stats.

(4) To assure its effectiveness, the management program shall be based upon a close working relationship among all functions of the department, other governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and the public. The department will keep interested parties informed of policies, plans and management. To anticipate change and meet future demand, the department shall engage in long-range planning of management programs.

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(5) Financing the department's fish and aquatic resource management program through, in large part, user fees, particularly license fees and excise taxes on selected equipment purchased by sport and commercial fishers, is an established principle. Although user fees collected for a specific purpose are targeted at that purpose, they provide significant indirect benefits for a wide range of wildlife and users. When beneficiaries are a broader or different segment of the public, other funding sources will be sought.

(6) Wisconsin law enunciates a trust doctrine which secures the right of all Wisconsin citizens to quality, non-polluted waters and holds that waters are the common property of all citizens. Fish management programs will vigorously uphold the doctrine that citizens have a right to use in common the waters of the state and these waters shall be maintained free of pollution.

(7) With access to Wisconsin's lakes and streams a prerequisite for their use by the public, the acquisition and development of public access to waters should be accelerated, particularly in the more populous areas of the state.

(8) Wild and wilderness lakes and streams are a special and limited resource providing unique settings for enjoyment of fishing and other outdoor activities. Additional efforts are required to designate lakes and streams for this status. Special management methods that increase fishing quality shall be encouraged on these waters. Such methods may include trophy fishing, regulated harvest, special seasons, and controlled entry.

(9) Sport fishing should remain a true amateur sport which combines the pleasures and skills of angling with wildlife and scenic enjoyment, contemplation, and other subtle pleasures, not competition. Recent trends toward commercialization of sport fishing through contests and tournaments will be closely monitored. Appropriate action within the existing authority will be taken to control excesses.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr. Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80.

NR 1.015 The management of wildlife, preamble. (1) The conservation act (s. 23.09(1), Stats.) requires the department of natural resources to provide an adequate and flexible system for the protection, development and use of forests, fish and game, lakes, streams, plant life, flowers and other outdoor resources in this state. Specific authorities and missions of the department for wildlife protection and use besides the general authority are:

- (a) Protect and manage nongame species, particularly endangered, threatened and uncommon species;
- (b) Acquire and lease lands;
- (c) Conduct research and surveys;
- (d) Establish long-range resource management plans and priorities;
- (e) Manage wildlife habitat on public land;
- (f) Provide regulations to govern the harvest of game species and fur-bearing mammals;

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habitat conditions within the forest, i.e., savanna type openings for sharp tail grouse management or is the appropriate silvicultural system, due consideration shall be given to the attainment of biological diversity of the future forest, the development of edge for wildlife, a variety of age classes in future growth and esthetic quality of the area. Clearcutting is a silvicultural system usually applicable to intolerant species and is defined for purposes of this policy as a timber removal practice that results in a residual stand of less than 30 feet of basal area per acre upon completion of a timber sale. Furthermore, as the existing acreage of overmature even-aged stands change, the long-range goal of the board shall be to increase the intensities of professional management on the state and county forests.

(4) Special management practices shall apply to eagle and osprey nesting sites, deer yards, to lake and stream shoreline zones, to sensitive soil types, to springs and important watersheds, to selected esthetically managed roadsides and to land use zones identified in the master plan as managed more restrictive.

(5) Block type plantings of a single species that create a monotype culture within an area shall be discouraged. Plantations shall be established to achieve a more esthetically pleasing appearance and to provide for added diversity of type. Planting will be accomplished by varying the direction of the rows or contouring to create a more natural appearance, planting on the contour, using shallow furrows or eliminating furrows where practical. In planting adjacent to a major roadway, the first rows should be parallel to the roadway to meet esthetic concern and provide game cover. Existing and new plantations will be thinned at the earliest opportunity and periodically thereafter to develop an understory for wildlife habitat and a more natural environment.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

NR 1.30 State park system. (1) State parks shall be classified, as follows, into their most logical employment and greatest usefulness:

(a) *Scenic parks.* Parks having unusual scenic charm and beauty, distinctive landscapes, and particular appeal to nature lovers, and of sufficient size to enable use by large numbers of people without destruction of the qualities essential to their purpose.

(b) *Historical - memorial parks.* Parks of archaeological, memorial and historical significance.

(c) *Roadside parks.* Parks possessing scenic and other park characteristics adjacent to or associated with important state trunk or interstate highways.

(d) *Recreation parks.* Parks which offer the best natural values for recreation, have scenic qualities, and contain water for recreational purposes and are of sufficient size to prevent destruction through overuse.

(e) *Park trails.* Continuous corridors, whether or not associated with a state park or state forest, suitable for hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, canoeing or nature study.

(2) No overnight lodging facilities other than designated campgrounds, group camps and staff residences shall be constructed in state parks.

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(3) Archaeological features and historic buildings located in state parks may be restored and preserved.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1975, No. 232, eff. 5-1-75.

NR 1.31 State-owned islands. The department shall maintain state-owned islands in natural and undisturbed condition consistent with controlled public use on islands suited for recreational purposes. Each state-owned island shall be classified for its most desirable use such as camping or picnicking, or to be maintained in a natural condition. Preference shall be given to aesthetic management and every effort shall be made to maintain forest growth and ground vegetation in as near a natural state consistent with other desirable uses.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1975, No. 232, eff. 5-1-75.

NR 1.32 Natural areas and scientific areas. (1) The legislature has indicated its intent to acquire, establish and preserve natural areas and scientific areas by creating ss. 15.347(4), 23.27 and 23.092, Stats. The natural resources board agrees that such areas, by their preservation, protect the state's natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state.

Note: Section 23.092 (1), Stats., defines "natural areas" and "scientific areas" to include tracts of land or water which have native biotic communities, unique natural features or significant geological or archeological sites. Generally, natural areas are remnant areas which largely have escaped disturbance since settlement or which exhibit little recent disturbance so that recovery has occurred and presettlement conditions are approached. Generally, scientific areas are natural areas of at least statewide significance and useful for education or research.

(2) The department, with the advice and assistance of the scientific areas preservation council, shall:

(a) Conduct inventories of natural areas statewide including department controlled properties.

(b) Recommend for natural resources board approval sites on department properties as scientific areas.

(c) Recommend for natural resources board approval the acquisition of natural areas and designation of appropriate tracts as additions to the scientific areas system.

(d) Manage natural areas and scientific areas to perpetuate the native biotic communities, unique natural features and geological or archaeological sites.

(e) Encourage research and educational use by groups and persons on department controlled scientific areas, consistent with the individual site management guidelines.

(3) Prior to any change in status of a scientific area located on lands owned or controlled by the department, the natural resources board, with the advice of the scientific areas preservation council, shall determine in each instance that:

(a) The site is no longer suitable and no longer needed for the scientific area use for which it was established; or

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(b) Other public uses are required due to unavoidable public necessity, but then only after notice to concerned groups and individuals and opportunity for public comment.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

NR 1.40 Acquisition of recreational land. (1) In the acquisition of recreational lands, the department shall place principal emphasis on the acquisition of lands in the heavily populated areas of the state and in places readily accessible to such areas.

(2) A high priority shall be placed on the consolidation and completion of existing projects and new projects shall be initiated only where unusual conditions of quality, location, cost, availability and need exist which justify their establishment and implementation.

(3) All new projects shall be subject to natural resources board approval.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1976, No. 232, eff. 5-1-76.

NR 1.41 Land acquisition authorization. (1) The following land transactions of the department shall require board approval:

(a) Acquisitions involving cost of \$100,000 or more.

(b) Acquisitions partially or completely outside an established project boundary.

(c) Acquisitions, the cost of which exceeds the highest appraised value.

(d) Condemnations of land.

(e) Gifts of land to the department.

(2) The secretary is authorized to approve a proposed acquisition for board confirmation at a subsequent meeting if all of the following conditions exist:

(a) The acquisition cost is under \$100,000.

(b) The acquisition involves land completely inside a project boundary established by the board.

(c) The acquisition cost does not exceed the highest appraised value.

(d) Where short tenure with substantial increased value is not involved.

(3) The department shall submit to the board each year a statistical report on the land control program, including an analysis of the program's status in relationship to the state recreational plan.

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